



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



VAN ZANTEN TO PARTICIPATE IN 2022 TOUGH RUCK

Brookings County Veterans Service Officer Courtney Van Zanten is heading to Massachusetts!

An American Legion ruck crew is lacing up their boots and weighing their packs to represent The American Legion in the 2022 Tough Ruck 26.2 in Concord, Mass., on Saturday, April 16.

The Tough Ruck 26.2 Boston is the signature event of Tough Ruck Nation – a group of military, first responders and civilians who ruck march in honor and in memory of fallen servicemembers and first responders.

The events raise funds to support the Military Friends Foundation.

The American Legion team includes American Legion National Judge Advocate Mark Seavey, American Legion Media & Communications Commission Chairman Dave Wallace of Virginia, South Dakota Department Service Officer Courtney VanZanten, and Washington, D.C., National Guard Sgt. Robert Maldonado.

This group will be sporting [100 Miles for Hope](#) gear as they travel the 26.2-mile course that stretches between Concord and Lexington, Mass.

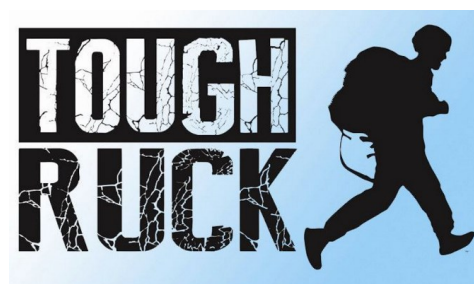
“The mission of the Boston Tough Ruck mirrors our own 100 Miles for Hope challenge, so it’s easy for us to shine some light on our own initiative even as we are supporting our brothers and sisters in arms,” said Seavey.

Seavey and the ruck crew will reunite with his former co-hosts on the Tango Alpha Lima podcast, Ashley Gorbulja-Maldonado and Jeff Daly. The podcast team will record on-site coverage of the ruck march for the April 19 episode of the podcast, and will also post on social media during the event.

Follow the event coverage on Instagram, [@theamericanlegion](#), or [subscribe to The American Legion Tango Alpha Lima podcast](#).



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DAV STATE CONFERENCE



SDDVA Secretary Greg Whitlock had the opportunity to visit with veterans during the DAV state convention in Rapid City last weekend.

Whitlock participated in the Veterans Town Hall on Friday afternoon and also briefed the members on SDDVA on Saturday morning. Whitlock provided an update on the 2022 South Dakota legislative session, additional funding received for SDDVA's Military Funeral Honors reimbursement fund, South Dakota's Fallen Hero Bridge program, the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery, the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home and state benefits.



SDDVA's Lisa Woeppel, admissions coordinator at the State Veterans Home, also attended the convention and addressed questions about the Home.

ADDITIONAL REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS FACILITIES BEING DEVELOPED

Governor Kristi Noem and the South Dakota Department of Social Services (DSS) are working to expand the number of regional behavioral health facilities across the state to create a robust and comprehensive crisis service delivery model.

Governor Noem's budget included \$15 million in federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to support additional infrastructure development for Appropriate Regional Facilities (ARF). It was approved by the legislature and is included in the overall DSS budget. Over the next four years, an estimated \$3,750,000 in ARPA funds will be spent each year for the construction and expansion of facilities across the state.

DSS will issue a Request for Proposal to expand the ARF model in other areas of the state and potentially address any additional funding needs for existing ARFs. The goal of the Department is to have at least one ARF in all five Behavioral Health regions.

"Adding short-term regional crisis stabilization services in each region of the state is a very positive step for South Dakota," said DSS Cabinet Secretary Laurie Gill. "The Department is committed to working with its partners across the state to support crisis service delivery. This will require collaboration with state, county, and city entities as we all have a role to play in providing quality crisis services."

Without regional crisis stabilization, individuals in mental health crisis are often placed in jail or involuntarily committed to inpatient psychiatric hospitals when they could be served in a less restrictive setting closer to their home and community.

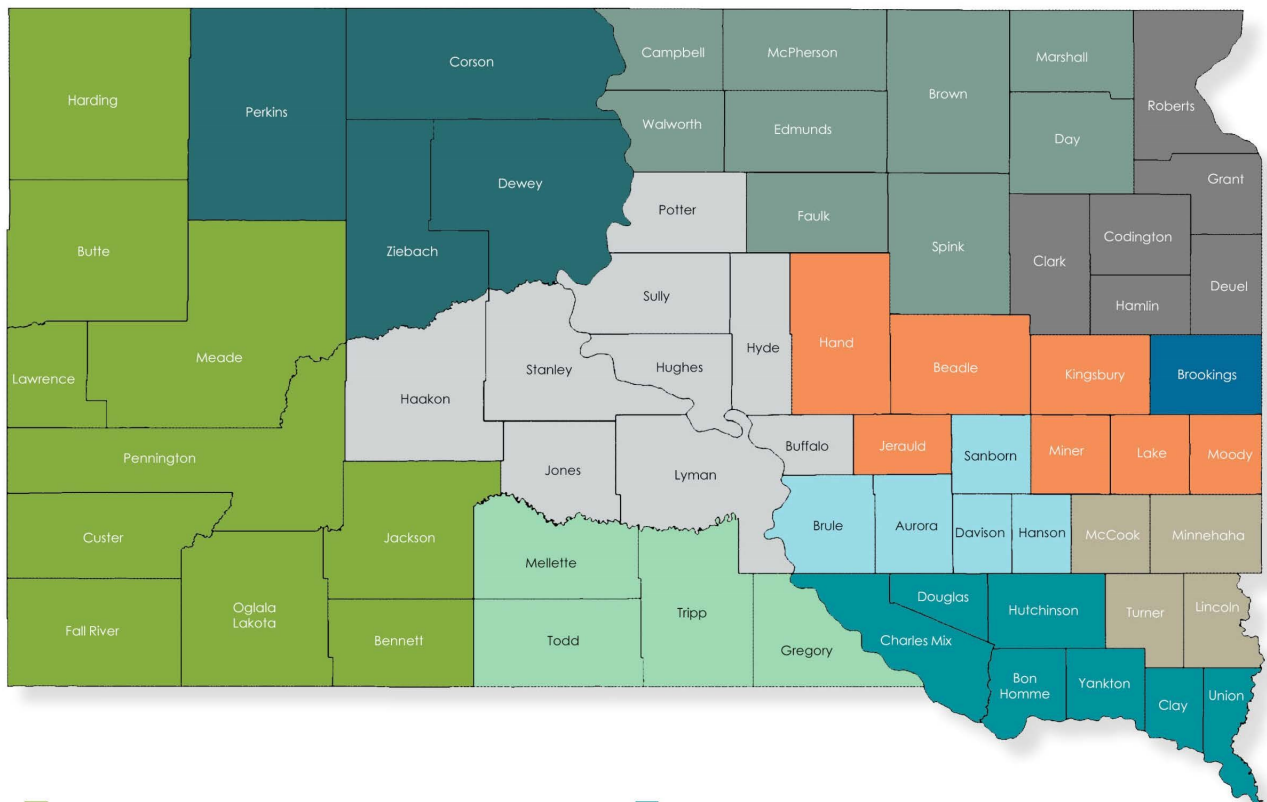
Through previous appropriations, three projects are currently underway with a total investment of \$8.33 million in regions one, three, and four. Pennington County falls within region one, Yankton County falls within region four and Codington County falls within region three. The contract in Pennington County is \$4.6 million to support construction, Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services in Yankton County is \$232,938 for six months of service delivery, and the Human Service Agency in Watertown (Codington County) is \$3.5 million with an additional \$1 million being added to support construction and service delivery.

"We want all South Dakotans, regardless of where they live, to have access to short-term comprehensive behavioral health crisis stabilization close to home 24 hours per day, seven days a week," Gill said. "This will also take pressure off law enforcement and first responders in our communities who have for a long time been the people responding to behavioral health crises."

For more information about ARFs visit

<https://dss.sd.gov/behavioralhealth/services.aspx#behavioralhealthcrisiscare>

South Dakota Community Mental Health Centers



- Behavior Management Systems
- Brookings Behavioral Health and Wellness
- Capital Area Counseling
- Community Counseling Services
- Dakota Counseling Institute
- Human Service Agency
- Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services
- Northeastern Mental Health Center
- Southeastern Behavioral Healthcare
- Southern Plains Behavioral Health Services
- Three Rivers Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Center

Financial assistance is available. Contact a Community Mental Health Center in your area for more information.



To locate treatment services
in your area, scan below



Division of Behavioral Health
605.367.5236
1.855.878.6057
dssbh@state.sd.us
dss.sd.gov/behavioralhealth

Agency Contact Information

Behavior Management Systems

350 Elk St
Rapid City, SD 57701
605.343.7262
www.bmscares.org

Brookings Behavioral Health and Wellness

211 Fourth St
Brookings, SD 57006
605.697.2850
www.brookingsivycen.org

Capital Area Counseling Service

2001 Eastgate Ave
Pierre, SD 57501
605.224.5811
www.cacsnet.org

Community Counseling Services

357 Kansas Ave SE
Huron, SD 57350
605.352.8596
www.ccs-sd.org

Dakota Counseling Institute

910 W. Havens Ave
Mitchell, SD 57301
605.996.9686
www.dakotacounseling.net

Human Service Agency

123 19th St NE
Watertown, SD 57201
605.886.0123
www.humanserviceagency.org

Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services

1028 Walnut St
Yankton, SD 57078
605.665.4606
www.lcbhs.com

Northeastern Mental Health Center

14 S Main St, Suite 1E
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605.225.1010
www.nemhc.org

Southeastern Behavioral HealthCare

2000 S Summit Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
605.336.0510
www.southeasternbh.org

Southern Plains Behavioral Health Services

500 E Ninth St
Winner, SD 57580
605.842.1465
www.spbhs.net

Three Rivers Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Center

11 E Fourth St
Lemmon, SD 57638
605.374.3862
www.threeriverscounseling.com

Mental Health Services

Community mental health centers in South Dakota provide quality services to both adults and youth. Services provided may include screenings and assessments, case management, individual therapy, group therapy, crisis intervention, psychiatric evaluation, and medication management. Financial assistance for services is available.

Outpatient Services

Outpatient mental health counseling services are provided to individuals of all ages. Group or family therapy and psychiatric services may also be offered.

Children, Youth and Family (CYF) Services

CYF services are specialized outpatient services provided to youth with serious emotional disturbance (SED). Family counseling may include a strength-based model for building skills to help improve family relationships, reduce behavioral issues, and improve school performance.

Comprehensive Assistance with Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Services

The CARE Program provides comprehensive outpatient services to adults with serious mental illness (SMI) within an integrated system helping individuals to live successfully in the community and experience the hope of recovery.

Individualized and Mobile Program of Assertive Community Treatment (IMPACT)

IMPACT provides intensive services to adults whose serious mental illness (SMI) significantly impacts their lives.

The Department of Social Services does not exclude, deny benefits to, or otherwise discriminate against any person on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs, activities, or services. For more information about this policy or to file a Discrimination Complaint you may contact: Discrimination Coordinator, Director of DSS Division of Legal Services, 700 Governor's Drive, Pierre, SD 57501, 605.773.3305.

SDDVA PURPLED UP IN FORCE IN SUPPORT OF OUR MILITARY KIDS



CHARLES MIX COUNTY OUTREACH

Charles Mix County Veterans Service Officer Jerry Seiner and SDDVA Field Service Officer Kevin Bowen hosted a booth at the Charles Mix Farm and Home Show April 7 in Wagner.



The duo had the opportunity to visit with veterans about veterans benefits, VA Health Care and the new South Dakota Veterans Cemetery.



SSGT FOX SUICIDE PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM

As part of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and White House national suicide prevention efforts, the VA published a Notice of Funding Opportunity for approximately \$51,750,000 in suicide prevention grants on April 11.

Under Section 201 of the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act, grants will be awarded to organizations that provide or coordinate suicide prevention services for veterans at risk of suicide and the families of those veterans.

“Communities are important partners in our work to end veteran suicide,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “The Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program will fund programs in local communities that provide suicide prevention services and resources to veterans and their families along with ensuring veterans have access to our community partners who know how to reach them.”

Organizations may apply for grants worth up to \$750,000 as well as apply to renew awards from year-to-year throughout the length of the three-year community-based grant program.

The VA will host [a technical assistance webinar for grant applicants](#). The official version of the Notice of Funding Opportunity is scheduled to publish in the Federal Register April 15. It will provide information about the [Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program](#) eligibility and award process. Meanwhile, the document is available for [public inspection review](#).

COST OF SUICIDE IN SOUTH DAKOTA

In 2019...

Suicide was the 9th leading cause of death in South Dakota

185 South Dakotans died by suicide

South Dakota had the 8th highest suicide rate in the nation



The economic toll of suicide on society is immense.

In 2019...

Avg. Medical Costs = **\$4,728**

Total Medical Costs = **\$860,526**

Avg. Value of Statistical Life = **\$10.5 MILLION**

Total Value of Statistical Life = **\$1.9 BILLION**

Avg. Combined Costs = **\$10.5 MILLION**

Total Combined Costs = **\$1.9 BILLION**

Avg. costs = average cost per suicide

All costs represent 2019 data for South Dakota from CDC WISQARS

HOW CAN YOU HELP PREVENT SUICIDE?

Suicides are preventable. Help is available 24/7 by calling 1.800.273.8255

Know the Warning Signs

Talk: Being a burden to others, killing themselves, feeling trapped, having no reason to live

Mood: Loss of interest, depression, rage, anxiety, empty, hopeless

Behavior changes: Acting recklessly, withdrawing from activities, increase use of alcohol or drugs, sleeping too much or too little, giving away prized possessions, looking for ways to kill themselves

Know the Risk Factors

- ☛ Mental disorders
- ☛ Alcohol or other substance use
- ☛ Hopelessness
- ☛ History of trauma or abuse
- ☛ Previous suicide attempts
- ☛ Major physical illness
- ☛ Financial loss
- ☛ Loss of relationships
- ☛ Easy access to lethal means
- ☛ Lack of social support and sense of isolation

Take Action

1. Request a free suicide prevention training or suicide prevention materials for your workplace at www.sdsuicideprevention.org
2. Implement worksite wellness. Visit <https://goodandhealthysd.org/resources/workplace-wellness-toolkit/> to learn more.
3. Ensure all staff know what resources are available to them, such as funding assistance through www.605Strong.com or by calling 211 for resources in your area.
4. Pledge to be StigmaFree by visiting <https://www.nami.org/Get-Involved/Pledge-to-Be-StigmaFree>



For additional warning signs, risk factors and more general information related to suicide prevention, please visit sdsuicideprevention.org

To find a local provider, please call 211, visit dss.sd.gov, or scan here:



UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr 15-18—State Offices Closed

Apr 20—SD Veterans Council Meeting—Military Heritage Alliance Building—Spirit of America Room—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—9:00 am (CT)

May 1—Loyalty Day

May 6—Military Spouse Appreciation Day

May 8—Victory in Europe Day

May 8—Mother's Day

May 10—SDDVA Mini Conference—Pennington County Conference Room in the Care Building in Rapid City—(321 Kansas City Street)—10:00 am—2:00 pm (MT)

May 11—SDDVA Mini Conference—American Legion Post 8 Cabin in Pierre—(520 S. Pierre Street)—10:00 am—2:00 pm (CT)

May 12—SDDVA Mini Conference—Brookings City Library—Cooper Room—(513 3rd Street)—10:00 am—2:00 pm (CT)

May 14—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 9

May 14—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 9 Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center Arena—Doors open at 7:30 pm and program at 9:00 pm (CT)

May 14-15—Ellsworth AFB Air Show

May 21—Armed Forces Day

May 30—Memorial Day Program—SD Veterans Cemetery—(25965 477th Avenue)—Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)

May 30—Memorial Day Program—Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home —(2500 Minnekahta Avenue)—Hot Springs—10:00 am (MT)

May 30—State Offices Closed

Jun 1—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 10

Jun 1—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 10 Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center Arena—Doors open at 7:30 pm and program at 9:00 pm (CT)

Jun 9-12—State VFW Convention—4-H Fairgrounds—(3200 W Havens Avenue)—Mitchell

Jun 12—Midwest Honor Flight Annual Honor Ride—SD Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls

Jun 14—Flag Day

Jun 16-19—State American Legion Conference—Watertown

Jun 18—Midwest Honor Flight 3rd Reunion—Sioux Falls Convention Center—11:00 am (CT)

Jun 19—Father's Day

Jun 25—Lake County Abate Poker Run for Midwest Honor Flight

Jul 4—Independence Day

Jul 11—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—(20901 Pleasant Valley Dr)—Sturgis—9:00 am (MT)

Jul 18-23—National Veterans Golden Age Games—Sioux Falls



UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 6-9—DAV National Convention—Orlando, FL
Aug 14-19—Military Order of the Purple Heart National Convention—Rapid City
Aug 15-17—SDDVA Annual CTVSO Benefit School
Aug 18-23—USS Iowa Veterans Association Reunion—Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center—Rapid City
Aug 22—The Barrel House Day of Giving fundraiser for Midwest Honor Flight—Sioux Falls
Sep 1—Veterans Day at the South Dakota State Fair
Sep 1-5—South Dakota State Fair
Sep 5—Labor Day
Sep 10—Heroes Helping with Horsepower Military Appreciation Event—W. Main Street—Ethan—Festivities begin at 8:00 am (CT)
Oct 3—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—(20901 Pleasant Valley Dr)—Sturgis—9:00 am (MT)
Oct 10—Native American Day
Oct 15—Midwest Honor Flight Fifth Annual Hangar Dance—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—7:00 pm (CT)
Nov 5—We've Got Your Six Veterans Appreciation Fair—Sturgis Community Center—(1401 Lazelle Street)—Sturgis—11:00 am—2:00 pm (MT)
Nov 11—Veterans Day
Nov 24—Thanksgiving Day
Dec 17—Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls—11:00 am (CT)
Dec 25—Christmas

UPCOMING EVENTS

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